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AN ARAB SCHOOL.

We learn, from travellers in various Mahomedan countries, that there is a general resemblance in almost all schools in which the Arabic language is taught. The first, and indeed in most primary schools, the only book is the Koran, or extracts from it; the pupils write on chalked boards, and learn only the sounds of the words, without their sense. They are made to repeat their lessons aloud, and all together, with intolerable noise. A species of training like this, it is true, may be expected to produce some good effects; and this, no doubt, is the fact. A respect for learning is imbibed, although it may be at best but very little of learning itself, or any just or definite ideas of what learning is. A small number of the pupils, also, may be expected to make some progress in real knowledge in after years. The advantages are few and small, compared with those which ought to flow from a regu-

lar, extensive system of education; yet, compare an individual thus taught with one who has never been in a school, and the difference is great. At least we have been led to these conclusions from a few opportunities which we have had to judge.

Our picture represents a school commenced by an American Missionary a few years ago at Cairo, in Egypt, and presents accommodations far superior to those we have spoken of. The room is of considerable size, with substantial and lofty walls, and evidently belongs to a well constructed building, and it is not wholly destitute of what we should consider necessary furniture, although most of the pupils are seated on the floor, according to the unvarying practice in Arab schools.

Few of our readers, we will venture to say, are well acquainted with the extent to which public schools exist in Africa, even

among some of those nations and tribes which we rank among the ignorant, if not the barbarous people of that despised continent. Several of the most respectable travellers in Middle Africa, have noticed the numerous schools, and some have spoken of them as supported by law. We however had not here been able to find any particular account of these, until we met with an aged African, of whom we have before given some account, (see Am. Penny Magazine, Vol. I., page 6.) From him we derived much information, some of which we may have room to introduce hereafter, from numerous notes taken from his communications in the years 1833 and '34.

Those of our readers who have our first volume at hand, may find on several pages, remarks on Arabic literature; a subject which must always be regarded with considerable interest, notwithstanding its many imperfections, deficiencies and deformities. The British public first became interested in Arabic literature, on the publication of "Carlyle's Specimens of Arabian Poetry," a few years ago, a copy of which has long been in our possession, and is now lying before us. It contains a selection of short pieces, selected from authors of successive ages, to present a great variety of subjects and styles, with brief but instructive notes, throwing light on many points requiring elucidation to the common reader. These specimens often display a refinement of taste, and a purity of sentiment so much above the standard which we are apt to adopt for the Arabian character, that no one can read the work without a pleasing surprise. The translations, although pretending to nothing more than a humble imitation of the beauties of the originals, and by some writers ranked still lower, yet possess merit enough to entitle them to the attention of every man of taste. The following "specimen" we select partly on account of its brevity.

LINKS OF AN OLD ARABIAN POET.

MY FRIENDS! BY MESKIN ALDARAMY.

Translated from the Hamasa, a collection of Poetry made in the 2nd century of the Hejra.)

With conscious pride I view the band
Of faithful friends that round me stand;
With pride exult that I alone
Can join these scattered gems in one:

For they're a wreath of pearls, and I
The silken cord on which they lie.

'Tis mine their inmost soul to see,
Unlock'd is every heart to me;
To me they cling, on me they rest,
And I've a place in every breast;
For they're a wreath of pearls, and I
The silken cords on which they lie.

These beautiful lines, as Carlyle informs us, had already been translated into Latin verse by Schulten. But he objects to him because the particular word on which the whole sentiment hangs, viz: *jamach* was not justly apprehended. According to Taurizi, (whose arabic Carlyle quotes,) it means "that which connects other things together, as the cord upon which pearls are strung." "Indeed," adds the latter, "without this interpretation, nothing could be more flat than our poet's verses, the whole merit of them consisting in the use of expressions at the same time applicable to the string of a necklace, and to a person who enjoyed the confidence of his friends."

TIGER FIGHT.

The circumstance at this distance of time most clear and distinct in my memory, in connexion with my first visit to Samarang, is a tiger fight. The exhibition took place on an extensive plain, near the town just after daybreak. A square of men, armed with the native spear, was formed three deep, and one hundred yards across. Inside this square was placed a box, resembling in shape a coffin, but much larger, containing a royal tiger, fresh from his native forest, which had been brought to town the day previous for this express purpose. Imagine every thing ready, the square formed, the box in its centre, and a silent multitude looking on—some perched on trees, some on the coach boxes of the numerous carriages, others on horseback, and thousands on foot, whilst the native chief of the district, with his friends and the European officials of the place occupied a gay pavilion; placed in an advantageous situation for viewing the common strife. A native Javan, in full dress, is now seen advancing into the square, followed by two porters, one carrying a bundle of straw, the other a lighted torch. The straw is thrown over the box, and the torch-bearer stands ready to set fire to it at the end where the tiger's

head is, the box being too narrow to permit his turning round in it. The leading native then lifts a sliding door at the other extremity of the box, carefully covering the opening thus made with mats, to prevent the light from penetrating, and inducing his royal highness to back out too soon. This operation completed, the straw is set on fire. The native and his two coolies now retire slowly, keeping time to Javanese music as they make their way outside the square. By this time, the fire has got fair hold of the box, filling it with smoke, and the tiger begins his retreat, his berth becoming rather warm. Presently, his hind quarters appear issuing through the sliding doorway, its covering of mat readily yielding to the pressure—by degrees his hind feet gain firm footing outside, and his whole body is soon displayed. On appearing, he seemed rather confused for a few seconds, and laying himself down looked all around upon his foes, and gave a roar that made the welkin ring, and my young heart quake a little. He then rose, deliberately shook himself, turned towards the rising sun, set off first at a walk, then at a trot, which he gradually increased to a smart canter, till within a few yards of the points of the spears pointed at him; he then came to the charge, and made a spring that surprised me, and, I fancy, every one present. I am afraid to say how high he leaped, but he was on the descent before a single spear touched him. This leap was evidently made with the intention of getting clear over the heads of the men and their spears too; and he most certainly would have accomplished it, had he not leaped too soon, and fallen within the square, the height of spring being quite sufficient for the purpose. As it was, when on the descent, the spears of the six men nearest him being pointed at his breast, one of them inflicted a frightful wound. On reaching the ground, the noble beast struggled hard for his liberty; but finding his efforts of no avail, he ultimately started off at full gallop to the opposite side of the square, where he renewed his exertions, though with less vigor than that displayed on his first attempt, and with no better success. He then galloped twice round the square, just at the point of the spears. Not a man advanced to touch it being the rule, that the tiger must come in the range of the spears, before they can be used. He was ultimately killed while making a third attempt to escape, and thus ended the sport.

[*Davidson's Far East.*]

The Beginning of the War.

The movement of the troops to the Del Norte was made by the commanding general, under positive instructions to abstain from all aggressive acts towards Mexico, or Mexican citizens, and to regard the relations between that republic and the United States as peaceful, unless she should declare war, or commit acts of hostility indicative of a state of war. He was specially directed to protect private property, and respect personal rights.

The army moved from Corpus Christi on the 11th of March, and on the 28th of that month arrived on the left bank of the Del Norte, opposite to Matamoros, where it encamped in a commanding position, which has since been strengthened by the erection of field works. A depot has also been established at Point Isabel, near the Brazos Santiago, thirty miles in rear of the encampment. The selection of his position was necessarily confined to the judgment of the general in command.

The Mexican forces at Matamoros assumed a belligerent attitude, and on the 12th April, Gen. Ampudia, then in command, notified Gen. Taylor to break up his camp in 24 hours, and to retire beyond the Nueces river; and in the event of his failure to comply with these demands, announced, that arms, and arms alone, must decide the question. But no open act of hostility was committed until the 24th of April. On that day Gen. Arista, who had succeeded to the command of the Mexican forces, communicated to Gen. Taylor, that "he considered hostilities commenced, and should prosecute them." A party of dragoons of sixty-three men and officers were on the same day despatched from the American camp up the Rio del Norte, on its left bank, to ascertain whether the Mexican troops had crossed, or were preparing to cross the river, "became engaged with a large body of these troops, and after a short affray, in which some sixteen were killed and wounded, appear to have been surrounded and compelled to surrender."—*President's Message*

The Town of Matamoros.—As every thing in relation to the seat of war is at present of great importance, we give below a brief description of the town of Matamoros, which occurs in Green's Mier Expedition:

'Matamoros is the only American built town we saw in Mexico. It has many frame houses with shingle roofs, and is built of as combustible materials as most southern towns in the United States. It is situated about half a mile from the Rio Grande, and thirty from its mouth, it contains a population of about ten thousand, and is the most defenceless city in Mexico.'

BOTANICAL.

CORNACEÆ.

The Cornus Tribe. No. 19. *Cornus Seriacea.*

RED OSIER. *Swamp Dogwood.* *Place.*—North America. *Quality.*—Bitter. *Power.*—Astringent, tonic. *Use.*—Fever, typhus, febrile disorders. **BOTANICAL ANALYSIS.**—*Natural Order.* Cornacæ. Umbellatae.—*L.*

CLASS IV. *Tetrandria.* **ORDER.** *Monogynia.*

GENUS. *CORNUS.*—From Lat. *Cornu*, a horn. The wood being considered as hard and durable as horn. The Romans constructed warlike instruments with it; *bona bello cornus*, says Virgil.

SYNONYMES.—*Schoöablühender Hartriegel* (G.) *Mon-ha-can-ni-min-schi* and *Hat-ta-wa-no-min-schi* (*Delaware Indians.*)

The Essential Characters.

Calyx. *Sepals* adherent to the ovary, the *limb* minute, four or five-toothed or lobed.

Corolla. *Petals* four or five, distinct, alternate with the teeth of the calyx.

Stamens. Of the same number as petals, and alternate with them.

Ovary. One or two-celled.

Fruit. A baccate drupe, crowned with the calyx.

Seeds. Not solitary.

The Second Characters.

CONUS. Calyx four-toothed. Corolla four-petaled. Drupe braccate, with a two-celled nucleus. Involucre four-leaved or wanting.

Cornus is the only North American genus. Leaves mostly opposite, entire and pinnately-veined. Flowers in cymes. Hairs centrally fixed. Floral envelopes valvate in aestivation. **The Specific Characters.**—*Cornus Seriacea.* Branches spreading. Branchlets wholly. Leaves ovate, rounded at the base, acuminate, ferruginous, pubescent beneath. Cymes depressed, wholly. Drupes a bright blue. **The Artificial Characters.**—Class *Tetrandria.* Stamens four. Order *Monogynia.* Ovary inferior. Polypetalous or apetalous. Shrubs (one species, herba-ceous). Fruit a baccate drupe.

Natural History.

The *Cornus Seriacea* is a shrub seldom attaining more than twelve feet in height. Its most common stature, however, is from six to eight feet. The stems are numerous, straight, and covered with a shining reddish bark. The root is ligneous, branched, of a light greyish color, and smells somewhat like liquorice root; the radicles are reddish. The stem is erect, cylindrical, and branched. The branches are opposite, roundish, spreading, and of a dingy purple color. The young shoots are round, ringed, nearly without spots, and of a dark purple color, the very young ones more or less pubescent. The leaves are opposite, petiolated, ovate, pointed, entire on their margins, nerved, and some-

what veined, having the middle rib and nerves projecting underneath and sunk above. The under surface of the leaves, particularly near the costa and nerves, is covered with a dense, brownish, villous coat. The young leaves are doubled by the approximation of their sides; when full grown, they are plain. They vary in size, but in general, when mature, they are three inches long and an inch and a half broad. The petioles are one-fourth the length of the leaves, round below, with a slight furrow above, villous and purplish. The flowers are borne in cymes, which are terminal, pedunculated, erect, flat above, or occasionally a little convex. The expanded flowers of each cyme are not very numerous. Calyx monophyllous, four-toothed, villous, the teeth are linear, acute, spreading, persistent, about two lines broad. The corolla consists of four linear, acute, spreading petals, larger than the calyx. The stamens are four, erect, diverging, filaments scarcely longer than the corolla. The anthers are peltate, oblong, and of a yellow color. Pistillum german, below globose, pitcher-shaped and villous. Style filiform, hardly shorter than the stamens. Stigma capitated and pubescent. The fruit consists of a collection of berry-formed, globular, fleshy drupes, of a beautiful cerulean blue color. Each berry is excavated at the base, white within, one-locular. Seed a roundish, compressed, nerved, two-celled nut.

The geographical range of the Red Osier or Swamp Dogwood, as commonly called, is extensive. It inhabits most thickets, the borders of swamps, rivers, creeks, and rivulets. Its common companion, the *Cornus Strica*, resembles it exceedingly, and may be easily confounded with it unless carefully examined. It flowers in June and July, and ripens its berries in September.

Chemical and Medical Properties.

The medicinal virtues of the *CORNUS SERIACEA* are the same as those of the *CORNUS FLORIDA*, and both are allied, in their effects, to the Peruvian. The Red Osier is, therefore, a stimulant and tonic, and may be used in powder or in tincture, with proof spirits. About a scruple and a half, and from that quantity to a drachm of the former, may be given at a dose, and repeated three or four times a day. The usual proportions of the spirituous tincture may be used.

Dr. Walker, upon distilling equal quantities of the pulverized bark of the root of *Cornus Florida* and *Cornus Seriacea* and of red Peruvian bark, obtained a fluid from the latter differing from that procured from the two former in no respect but in possessing a flavor not aromatic, but peculiar to the bark. The fluid was clear and transparent. It appears further, that upon subjecting these materials to a second distillation, the fluids obtained had a more disagreeable smell than those from the first, and a taste somewhat acerb.

The inference deduced from this experiment is, that gallic acid is contained in the three substances used, and that it exists in greater quantity in the Corni than in the Bark. The gallic acid also comes over in distillation in an uncombined state.

The CORNUS FLORIDA contains more extract and gum than the Peruvian bark, and is more soluble in water, while the latter, containing more resin, is more easily soluble in alcohol. The powder of the bark of *Cornus Florida* is more miscible in water than that of the *Cinchona* for the same reason.

AN AMUSING AFFAIR.

The home correspondent of one of the Parisian journals received by the *Britannia*, relates an amusing scene. We translate it for the readers of the *Atlas*.

I have just heard of an amusing adventure which occurred here a few days ago; should you not like to hear it? The affair took place in the country, and had for its heroes and heroines, the elite of Paris. I was reminded when I heard of it, of Chantilly and the illustrious *Vetel*.

One of the most accomplished and distinguished ladies of Paris, Madame Bache, had assembled in the parlors of her chateau the most brilliant personages of the two Faubourgs. The festivity was given on account of the Count of Arnim, the Prussian ambassador, and in consequence, Luxenburgh and the Palace Bourbon, as well as the diplomatic corps, had sent their most illustrious representatives to the chateau of Madame Bache.

No one was wanting to the entertainment, and while they were conversing together in the parlor, in a manner in which they can converse, who have seen so many things and who are familiar with everything, and just at the moment when a consul general was relating some of the scenes in the private life of Ibrahim Pasha, and a deputy from Languedoc was displaying, in the midst of bursts of laughter, a letter which he had just received from an elector in his district, asking him to send to the government, for the garden of plants, two camels, which he did not know what to do with; "for," wrote the elector, it will not cost the government much, and it will secure you my vote." Just at this moment, I say, Madame Bache, who was moving about the room with active and thoughtful ease, which is the great accomplishment of the parlor, all at once perceived her footman agitating himself in the manner of the electric telegraph, in a corner of the door. The footman was very pale and much excited; great anxiety was depicted on his face; but at sight of so many fashionable people, the poor man dared not advance any farther.

Madame Bache perceived at once that some accident was the cause of all this agitation.

"Ah, Madame, a great misfortune!" cried the footman, clasping his hands.

"What is it?"

"The cook is drunk; so very drunk, that he has forgotten even to light the fire in the furnace. Even if he were in a condition to get dinner, he could not prepare it these four hours."

If you have ever been placed in the situation of Madame B., then only can you realize the terror this information could not fail to inspire. The appetites of her guests had already become sharpened by delay, and we must remember, too, that the personages to whom these appetites belonged were diplomats. Madame Bache, however, remained perfectly calm and unmoved. As for remedying the mischief, that was out of the question; she resolved, therefore, to meet it with good nature.

"Ladies and Gentlemen," said she, turning round and addressing the company, "I have invited you here to dinner, but I regret to say there is no dinner for you, my cook is *more than dead*, and I have but this moment been informed of it. If, therefore, we wish to have the table arranged, it is absolutely necessary we should do so ourselves."

It is related of Napoleon, that once speaking of Corneille, he said, if the poet lived in his day, he would have made him his private minister. If I were the present king, it seems to me that I should make Madame Bache an ambassador at least.

Her readiness had a success that was quite astonishing. The Count of Arnim rolled up his sleeves—the whole company followed his example—and they all descended to the kitchen, with loud bursts of laughter.

The cook was sitting in a chair, with a face as red as a lobster, and as immovable as the sphinx. Arranged around him were any quantity of stew pans, but not a single plate. Their watchword was "conquer or die"—and if you will believe me, conquer they did.

A Peer of France was commissioned with attending to the spit—two Members of the House of Deputies superintended the frying—the Secretaries of Foreign Ambassadors were appointed to the honorable office of scullions; and two Presidents of the Royal Court were entrusted with the responsible duty of watching the pots on the fire.

Seven or eight army and navy dignitaries executed sundry great feats in the pantry and the out-houses; they brought in, amidst cries of enthusiasm, twenty dozen eggs, and any number of chickens and ducks.

All the ladies declared that they were excellent in preparing omelets, in consequence, omelets were prepared, and in at least twenty different ways:—*omelette au rhum* by a Duchess—*omelette aux truffes* by a Marchioness—*omelette aux pointes asperges*, by a Viscountess—*omelette aux confitures* by a Baroness. But I will not mention all the others.

Madame Bache maintained order in all parts of the service. She reserved, for her own part, the preparation of the stews and the sauces.

You ought to have been there to have witnessed the sport.

"The vinegar cruet," cried a Consul.
"A little parsley, for my chicken!" cried a chargé d'Affaires.

"A little salt, and some pepper, if you please," demanded a Secretary of State.

"I want some flour!" bawled out a Procureur General.

After the omelettes were prepared, there were still so many eggs left that our great ladies, transformed into domestics, prepared some poached eggs, some dropped eggs, some eggs *a la coque*, and other eggs, *a la neige*.

"If you are fond of eggs," said Madame Bache, to animate her little army—you can have them in any way you like."

From time to time the cook would endeavor to get up, and would then sink back into his chair, with a heavy sigh; then he would follow, with a stupid gaze, the gentlemen in black dresses, and the ladies in their silk robes—all of them supplied with plates—but he could comprehend nothing of what all these fashionable people, could be doing down in his kingdom. At ten o'clock, Madame B., announced, amidst the general enthusiasm, that the dinner was ready—and, at eleven, it was arranged on the table.

Each one had earned his share by his own personal exertions, and they all eat with appetites worthy of Chevalier de Bayard himself. The dinner was unanimously voted excellent—so good that, at five in the morning, they were still seated at the table. At this moment, the comedy was well nigh converted into tragedy. The cook of Madame Bache had recovered from his lethargy, and looked about for his sword, threatening to destroy himself. But he could find nothing but a carving knife—and to kill himself with that seemed altogether too vulgar—and he gave up the idea.—*Boston Atlas*.

Directions for Mounting Birds which have been long Stuffed.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 279.

First take out the stuffing, and return a similar quantity, previously dipped in water, taking care not to wet the feathers. Having put the skin to soak in this manner, proceed to the legs, and wind around them quantities of wet tow. In large birds the legs take some days to soften, for which reason you should begin with them first. Put the bird into a vessel or basket, and stop out the dry air, by covering him with tow or cotton; put it in a damp place, till the skin has grown supple. For small birds twenty-four hours will be sufficient; large ones will require three or four days. When the skin has become sufficiently soft, take out the wet stuffing, and apply a coat of preservative; then stuff for the last time.

The next thing is to prepare the wires. They should be of a size proportionate to the size of the bird: but one for the chief supporter, that is, one fourth longer than the length from the beaks to the beginning of the tail. We will call this the main wire. Straighten it, and sharpen the two ends; cut two other of equal size, and long enough for the legs; sharpen one end of each. Bore a hole through the claw upwards, and introduce one of the wires for the legs; part it behind the bone of the scaly part of the leg till you come to the first joint above, straighten that joint, and continue the wire through the bone of the thigh to the body. You have thus all the joints of the legs straight, and can bend them into any position you choose. The wires are to be previously passed through the fire. Take the main wire, and at one third from the end twist a portion of it into spiral ring; pass the shorter end through the centre of the neck to the head, and bore through the cranium to the point of the wire, till it comes through in front. The portions of the wire must be so managed, that in this position the spiral ring is just below the thighs, and the lower end of it going through the rump, passes out among the tail feathers at their extremity. Twist the upper end of the leg wire with your pincers around the spiral ring, and bend all the wires so as to bring the bird into proper shape. The central wire should be passed into the neck after stuffing. This is not only the easiest method, but it preserves the neck in its cylindrical form.

If you desire to have the tail spread, twist the lower extremity of the wire into a ring, or fork it, adding another piece. These will support the feathers in an extended position.

All the above being dispatched, finish the stuffing, and sew up. This last must be done with care: that no trace of the seam remain in taking the stiches, always pierce the skin on the inside.

If any part be pressed out of shape during this process, you may readjust the stuffing afterward, by thrusting a large needle or small awl under the skin. In setting the legs in position, observe that the joints of the heel, (i. e., the first joint above the scaly part of the leg,) jut toward the under part of the tail, and that these joints be nearer together than the lower extremities of the legs.

In placing the bird in position, let him not look straight forward, if you wish to give

him an animated or graceful air; turn his head to the right or left somewhat. Sometimes you may raise the beak a little.

The operator must consult his own taste.

After drying, furnish him with artificial eyes of the same color as the living. For small birds, a mere black dot is sufficient, and can be made of a small drop of black sealing wax. To fix the eye, you must first soften the eyelid, take out a little of the stuffing at that place, and return it wet. In an hour or so take it out again, and enlarge the opening; stick the eye in with gum-arabic water, so that it will adhere; and arrange the pupils with a needle. If you wish to represent the bird in a state of repose, have the pupils of the eye in the middle of the orbit: if in a passion, have them squint; i. e., bring the pupils of the eyes towards one another. When agitated by love they are turned away outwards.

Now, with a sharp pair of nippers, cut off the top of the wire even with the crest, smooth down the feathers and your subject is fit for the cabinet.

Beyond these general ideas, the operator must be left to exercise his own taste and ingenuity.

Lee N. Y., May, 1846.—H. N. P.

DISSENSION AMONG THE JEWS IN LONDON.

Dissensions have lately occurred among the Jews of the metropolis which are daily assuming a more serious aspect, and promise to end ere long in an entire break up of the Jewish community. Nor are the differences which exist among the London Jews confined to their own synagogues; they have extended to the country, and are agitating the synagogues of Liverpool, Portsmouth, and other places.—The new sect call themselves the "Reformed Jews," an expression which sufficiently denotes the principles and purposes of the seceders. Nothing in history perhaps constitutes a case so nearly parallel to this movement among the Jews, as the Reformation in Germany, in the beginning of the sixteenth century.

The Reformed Jews claim the right of exercising their own judgment in all religious matters. They refuse to surrender their judgment to that of the Rabbis. They interpret Scripture for themselves, and regard the Talmud, hitherto held in the highest reverence by the Jewish community, as no better than a bundle of fables. Corresponding reforms are made in the service of the synagogue. Practices which the body from whom they have separated represent, as having been most re-

ligiously observed from the days of Moses to the present time, have been unceremoniously dispensed with by the congregation of Reformed Jews in the Burton street synagogue.—They have even carried the system of innovation so far as to publish new prayer books of their own. The result of the secession, and of the innovations made on the old opinions and observances in the Israelitish community, has been precisely what might have been expected. Those who remain have excommunicated those who have left, and treat them not only as schismatics, but as infidels and profane persons. Dr. Adler, the chief Rabbi, has not only determined refusing all religious privileges to the seceders, but on withholding marriage licenses from members of the congregations under his superintendence, who may propose to enter into a matrimonial union with any member of the Burton street or West London synagogue—the place in which the new sect stately meet for worship.—*London Balance.*

Steam Navigation.—Steam navigation is the proud product of Fulton's genius. He created it; it is the world in which he, though gone, yet speaks and provides. The names of Franklin and Morse, now borne round the world on the winged lightning, are destined to a sublime fame; but it must be a peculiar and enduring renown that is carried all over the earth, and down all ages with the force and universality of steam—a power conterminous with the species itself. Steam is founding new empires, states and republics, throughout the habitable globe—in Africa, in Asia, in New Holland, in Sumatra, Borneo and Madagascar. It is colonizing the blacks in Liberia, the Jews in Judea and Jerusalem, and the fair Saxon every where. It ascends all rivers, traverses all oceans, visits all lands. It works every where; and Bryarius like, with its hundred hands it works at every thing. It manipulates with equal dexterity the softest and the hardest material—wool, cotton and flax, iron, gold and the diamond. It clothes the world; grinds its food, cooks for it, feeds it and defends it.—*Selected.*

Mormons.—The accounts from the Mormon Emigrants vary. It is stated in some of the papers that they have encamped on the Grand River, with the intention of cultivating, this season, 25,000 acres of corn for their future subsistence. A correspondent of the Republican says that they have crossed St. Joseph's with arms, ammunition, &c. In leaving Nauvoo, they went prepared to defend themselves against the Indians on the route, and to protect themselves in their new homes. It is also stated that in their encampment in western Iowa, they are living on friendly terms with the Indians, and that intermarriages are going on quite freely. Whether they intend to remain for the present this side of the mountains, is a matter of doubt.—*Reporter.*



AN ANCIENT WARRIOR.

Here we have an ancient warrior, as equipped for battle, with the few and simple weapons considered necessary for attack and defence, in the infancy of the arts, and in a primitive state of society. How many reflections crowd upon the mind at such a sight! Ah! what plaudits have been bestowed upon men who have assumed this attitude of human destroyers! How often and how long have Music, Poetry, Painting and Sculpture lavished their praises on the warrior, and his "garments rolled in blood!" How many false disguises have been thrown over the true figure and features of war; and for how many different reasons! How often has language been misapplied, in speaking of it and its devotees! For instance, nothing can be more unfair than many uses made of the term "*fair fighting*."

The ancient warrior before us is accoutered like many of those who composed the armies of Greece and Rome. We find such described in books, and represented on sculptured stones and antique medals. And no doubt many of us associate the idea of noble old Roman courage with such a figure, so provided. But Roman courage would not have long survived before a modern battery of Paixhan guns, or even of revolving pistols. Why not? Because it was founded on cowardice. 'What a doctrine!' We think

we hear some one exclaim. 'Where is your classical admiration of the great *virtue* of antiquity—if you take away courage from the character of the ancients, what do you leave us?' But little, truly; but some of them possessed real courage, and that of course remains to their credit. In speaking, however, of the mass of warriors, ancient and modern, we are ready to declare that they have been greatly deficient in the very quality they most pretended to. Assailants have generally been superior to their enemies in weapons, skill, experience, or some other important particular, or have thought themselves to be so. From the time when Cain rose against his brother and slew him, down to the catastrophe of Waterloo and the Opium war in China, we believe, the assailant counted on his superiority, or the contest would not have been waged. And this was a *sine qua non* in each case, whether the weapon was a club broken from a tree in Paradise, against Abel's two empty hands, or a Roman sword against a club, or a Damascus-blade against a Toledo, a coat of mail against a wadded doublet, or a cannon-shot against a coat of mail, or bayonets against plain muskets, or red coats against raw militia, or a superior fleet or a country roused by invasion. The invader, or the war-provoker, we repeat, always counts on his superiority.

We ask him then to tell us why is his boast of superior courage? We say that true valor lies not there—cowardice comes to the contest with sword, and spear, and shield. She counts the hosts, and compares her numbers, armories and wealth, with those of the other party. If there be not a decided superiority in these, or some other particular, she declines, or at least does not precipitate the conflict. Not so with true valor, who is the greatest friend of peace, while it is possible or lawful: but when she comes forth for the war, she comes in the name of the living God. She comes to sustain his cause; and under her command the ruddy countenance makes a veteran, and the smooth stones of the brook are better than weapons of war.

Let us give our sons frequent and various lectures on the *History of the Sword*, and tell them that if they should ever march to the Rio Bravo, we hope it may be for a better reason, than because the Mexicans are such cowards that they will run at the first shot.

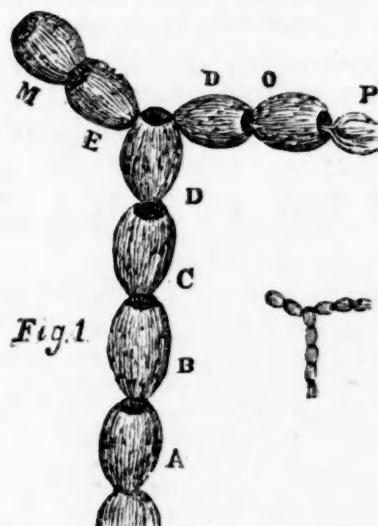


Fig. 1. THE FORMATION OF CORAL.

The costly coral necklaces, whose deep red color we often admire, are but imperfect specimens of the beauties of the extensive fabrics of the little animals which furnish the materials. Numerous rocks, ledges, and islands, nay, extensive groups of islands, owe their existence to those minute creatures.

The fisheries of coral in some parts of the Mediterranean, the Red Sea, &c., give employment to many laborious people, and the products are widely spread among the ornamental works of artizans. But some single branch of this substance, as taken from its native bed, has often presented a degree of beauty which art cannot surpass, or even rival. Many interesting descriptions of the coral reefs and islands of the Pacific Ocean may be found. We would refer our readers to Capt. Cook's Voyages, Ellis's Polynesian Researches, Rev. Charles Stewart's Voyage, and particularly to the U. S. Exploring Expedition."

It is interesting to know the process by which those immense masses of rock are constructed amidst the waves of the ocean, the shocks of which they not only endure, but at length successfully resist, and shut out from the tranquil coves and bays which they form. With the aid of the simple drawing above, and the accompanying description, both given by Spalanzani in his "Travels," our readers will be able to understand the operations of the animals observed by him. We find them copied into that valuable little work: "The Wonders of the Deep," in the Library of the Episcopal Sunday School Union.

"He was very desirous to be present at a coral fishing, in order that he might see the animal alive; and for this purpose accompanied some seamen of Messina, in Sicily, in one of these expeditions, carrying with him glass buckets, filled with sea-water, into which he plunged the branches of coral as soon as they were taken from the net. Immediately after the water became calm he observed the little white polypes coming out of their cells, apparently unconscious of their removal from their dwelling in the mighty ocean, to a glass vase. These insects, he observes, he examined again and again, as they were to him a complete novelty. One specimen he particularly describes, and gives an engraving of it, which is the one copied; this he represented with the polypes arranged in their cells, of the size they appeared through a microscope. At first he noticed only a short stem, containing four cells, which you will observe in the plate marked A. B. C. D.; each cell contained its own polypes; after a long time, (for the traveller was able to preserve it, by changing the sea-water each day,) it shot upwards; it then threw out two side branches, which you will see marked D. O. and E. M., and the polypes in the four lower cells then died. Having put a small piece of this coral in the hollow of his watch crystal, with some sea-water, he through a microscope watched the polypes coming out of their cells, with their arms displayed at the top. These in every species amount to twelve, sometimes the number is larger, and when extended for food, they resemble a bell in shape; these arms they move round and round, in such a manner that the water runs into the narrow part of the bell, which forms the mouth.

"When he agitated the water in the pail, Spalanzini remarks, that the polypes closed their arms, and retired into their cells by an opening they had at the top, and there they lay flat, until the water was at rest.

"The cells were so transparent, that the traveller assures us he could observe the polypes inside of them, lying bent like a bow, with their arms drawn together.

"Messrs. Tyerman and Bennett, thus describes some coral islands in the Pacific:—

"Having reached a considerable elevation on the side of the mountain, we enjoyed superb views of the harbor, the reefs, the adjacent islets, and the sea in its boundless magnificence on the one hand, and on the other rich and tropical prospects of hill, and dale, and woods of ample breadth, engirdled by the winding shore, or leaning against the dark blue heavens. In the scene beneath, the coral barrier rising from unfathomable darkness, 'to the warm precincts of the cheerful day,' and stretching across the harbor, formed a conspicuous object. On this the ocean billows broke in foaming light, while smooth within the bright lagoon, lay, calm and exquisitely pictured with patches of landscape, shapes of floating clouds, broad

paths of sunshine, and clear depths of downward sky reflected upon its surface. Our companions told us that in their days of ignorance, they believed the long rough coral reef to be a rib of one of the gods, but how it came there they did not pretend to know. We explained to them as well as we could, how these marvellous structures are formed, by multitudes on multitudes of the feeblest things that have life, through ages working together, and in succession, one mighty onward purpose of the eternal God; while each poor worm among the millions which perhaps an angel could not count, is merely performing the common functions of its brief existence, and adding, perhaps but a grain to a mass of materials which, in process of time, may possibly fill up the bed of the vast Pacific, and convert it into a habitable continent. The cause why the sea has abandoned so much ground, now constituting the low borders of some of the Society islands, may be sought in the extraordinary formation of the coral reefs which encircle them. At a very remote period, no doubt, the coral-worms began their labors, and these minute but wonderful artificers, probably laid the foundation of their stupendous structures upon the rocks from which the washing of the sea had cleared the earth. As the roofs grew beneath the flood, the force of the ocean against the land of course diminished; and when the former reached the surface of the water, they would afford, (as they now do,) protection to the land from all further encroachments from the tide. Deposition from the sea and earth brought down by the rains from the high lands, would gradually fill up the space between the reefs and the mountains. This has been done to a considerable extent, and the soil so accumulated is now covered with the richest vegetation. Thus those immense basins called lagoons, (so far as they are occupied with water,) were formed, of which the coral ramparts on one side, and the tall cliffs on the other are the boundaries. Upon these rugged circumvallations, the waves beat with perpetual violence; while in those hollows between them and the low flat coast, the lagoon is spread in blue tranquillity, and except when lashed into turbulence by the winds, scarce a breaker is seen on the shore. Under the direction of a wise and beneficent Providence, how much are these islands indebted to the poor and slender coral insect, for the construction of those mighty moles that curb the fury of the mightier deep; and by their happy interference, have occasioned those fruitful lines of level soil to spread between the hills and the floods, which furnish the inhabitants with the principal part of their food and raiment."

A beautiful poem of Montgomery, describes the formation of a coral island from the time it is first visible until it becomes clothed with vegetation sufficient to sustain human life.

DESTRUCTIVE TORNADO IN MISSISSIPPI—GREAT LOSS OF LIFE.

An extra from the office of Grenada (Miss.) Chronicle, of May 8th, gives a most melancholy account of the desolating effects of a hurricane which passed over that place on the 7th, about 3 o'clock, p. m. Every house within the sweep of the tornado was destroyed. But the destruction of property was nothing compared with the loss of life. The account says—

The tornado visited Grenada in the western part, and first in its sweep, took the house of Gen. T. N. Waul, occupied by Mr. Eubanks; of Samuel King, occupied by Dan'l. Robinson, Esq.; and that of Gen. Waul, occupied by Dr. R. F. Purnell, and Mr. Deal. In the destruction of these two houses, two white persons were hurried to eternity, viz.: Mr. and Mrs. Robinson. In the death of these persons, our friend and fellow townsman, Daniel Robinson, Esq., lost a father and a devoted wife.—Several of his children were also wounded; there were also three negroes killed, the property of Dr. Purnell. A Mr. Eubanks was also killed, and his child is lying mortally wounded. The hurricane took off the roof of James Sims, Esq., and injured some of his family, though fortunately occasioned no deaths. It then passed on through the southern part of the town and laid low the house wherein Mrs. Plummer lived, killing that lady and a number of her students; it also swept away the houses of our fellow-townsman, Peter Gause, James M. Raugh, Dr. J. Snyder, T. S. Land, Mr. Foster, T. J. Dellahtite, Sept Caldwell, Mrs. Jones, L. D. Butler, and several others which we do not now recollect, together with the Baptist Church, and the Grenada Male Academy. It also injured more or less the house occupied by Dr. Edwards, E. H. Mitchell, T. M. Oliver, and Dr. Tarpely. In the destruction of these houses many lives were lost, and many injuries sustained by individuals who two hours before were brisk and lively. Our friend, Dr. Robinson, not only lost a wife and father, but a considerable sum of money, which has been blown off in the wind, and has not since been found.

The same hurricane passed over a part of Maury County, Tennessee, doing a great deal of damage to the property of Judge Mack, John Williams and Judge Delahunty, but causing no loss of life.—*Mo. Repub.*

"ON HIS OWN HOOK."—The Boston Post tells a story of a sea-faring friend of his. Being in a place where pickpockets abounded, he lined his pockets with fish-hooks, ingeniously arranged so as to catch and hold the hand of an intruder; and it worked to a charm, for it caught his own hand, and tore all the flesh from his fingers, in less than an hour after he had set the hooks to catch a rogue.

CHURCH OF THE SEPULCHRE.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 275.)

Extracts from Dr. Robinson's Biblical Researches, Vol. I.

The different sects of Christians who have possession of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, had of course been compelled to alternate in their occupancy of it, and in the performance of their religious ceremonies. In this last "high day" of the festival, the Greeks held their grand Mass at the Sepulchre before break of day, and the Latins followed at 9 o'clock. I looked in for a few moments, with my friend Mr. Homes, upon this latter ceremony. Few persons were present except those engaged in the service. These few were all below in the body of the church; in the galleries there were no spectators. The reputed sepulchre, as is well known, stands in the middle of the spacious rotunda, directly beneath the centre of the great dome, which is open to the sky. The high altar was placed directly before the door of the Sepulchre; so that we could not enter the latter. The ceremonies we saw consisted only in a procession of the monks and others marching around the sepulchre, stopping occasionally to read a portion of the Gospel, and then again advancing with chanting and singing—I was struck, with the splendor of their robes, stiff with embroidery of silver and gold, the well meant offerings probably of Catholics out of every country of Europe; but I was not less struck with the vulgar and unmeaning visages that peered out from these costly vestments. The wearers looked more like ordinary ruffians, than like ministers of the cross of Christ. Indeed there is reason to believe that the Latin monks in Palestine are actually for the most part ignorant and often illiterate men, chiefly from Spain, the refuse of her monks and clergy, who come, or are sent hither, as into a sort of exile, where they serve to excite the sympathies and misplaced charities of the Catholics of Europe. There was hardly a face among all those before us, that could be called intelligent. A few fine looking French naval officers, and one or two Irish Catholics, had joined the procession, but seemed quite out of place, and as if they were ashamed of their companions.

The whole scene indeed was to a Protestant painful and revolting. It might perhaps have been less so, had there been manifested

the slightest degree of faith in the genuineness of the surrounding objects; but even the monks themselves do not pretend, that the present sepulchre is anything more than an imitation of the original. But to be in the ancient city of the Most High, and to see these venerated places and the very name of our holy religion profaned by idle and lying mummeries; while the proud Mussulman looks on with haughty scorn; all this excited in my mind a feeling too painful to be borne; and I never visited the place again.

For the lapse of more than fifteen centuries, Jerusalem has been the abode not only of mistaken piety, but also of credulous superstition, not unmixed with pious fraud. During the second and third centuries after the Christian era, the city remained under heathen sway; and the Christian church existed there, if at all, only by sufferance. But when, in the beginning of the fourth century, Christianity became triumphant in the person of Constantine: and at his instigation, aided by the presence and zeal of his mother Helena, the first great attempt was made in A. D. 326, to fix and beautify the places connected with the crucifixion and resurrection of the Savior; it then, almost as a matter of course, became a passion among the multitudes of priests and monks, who afterwards resorted to the Holy City, to trace out, and assign the fate of every event, however trivial or legendary, which could be brought into connection with the Scriptures, or with pious tradition. The fourth century appears to have been particularly fruitful in the fixing of these localities, and in the dressing out of the traditions or rather legends which were attached to them.*

But the invention of succeeding ages continued to build upon these foundations; until, in the seventh century, the Mohammedan conquest and subsequent oppressions confined the attention of the church more exclusively

* The Itinerarium Hierosol, A. D. 333, mentions the palm-tree as still standing on the side of Mount Olivet, from which the people broke off branches to strew before Jesus. Cyril also speaks of it in the same century; Cat. x. 19. The column to which Christ was bound and scourged, was already found; but the blood upon it is first mentioned by Jerome nearly a century afterwards. The Coenaculum connected with it was the work of a still later age, as we have already had occasion to remark.

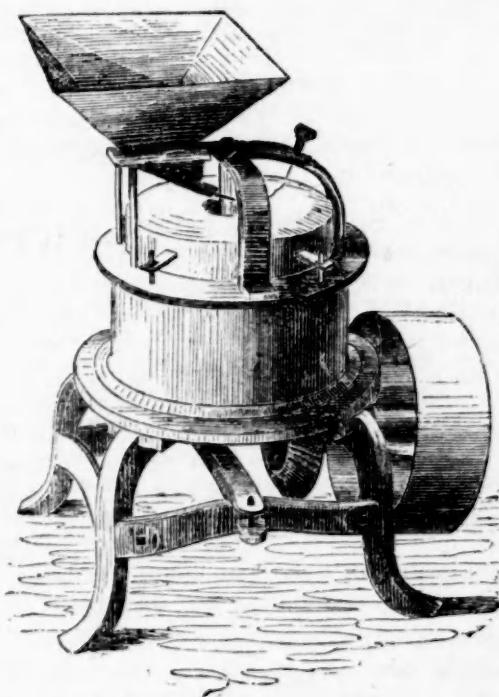
to the circumstances of her present distress; and drew off in part the minds of the clergy and monks from the contemplation and embellishment of scriptural history. Thus the fabric of tradition was left to become fixed and stationary as to its main points, in much the same condition, indeed, in which it has come down to our day. The more fervid zeal of the ages of the crusades, only filled out and completed the fabric in minor particulars. The fathers of the church in Palestine, and their imitators, the monks, were themselves, for the most part, not natives of the country. They knew, in general, little of its topography, and were unacquainted with the Aramaean, the vernacular language of the common people. They have related only what was transmitted to them by their predecessors, also foreigners, or have given opinions of their own, adopted without critical inquiry, and usually without much knowledge. The visitors of the Holy Land, in the earliest centuries, as well as the crusaders, all went thither in the character of pilgrims, and looked upon Jerusalem and its environs, and upon the land, only through the eyes of their monastic entertainers. European visitors, in particular, have ever lodged, and still lodge, almost exclusively in the Latin convent; and the Latin monks have in general been their sole guides.

In this way, and from all these causes, there has been grafted upon Jerusalem and the Holy Land a vast mass of tradition, foreign in its source and doubtful in its character, which has flourished luxuriantly and spread itself widely over the western world. Palestine, the Holy City, and its sacred places, have been again and again portrayed, according to the topography of the monks, and according to them alone. Whether travellers were Catholics or Protestants, has made little difference. All have drawn their information from the great storehouse of the convents; and with few exceptions, all report it apparently with like faith, though with various fidelity. In looking through the long series of descriptions, which have been given of Jerusalem by the many travellers since the fourteenth century, it is curious to observe, how very slightly the accounts differ in their topographical and traditional detail. There are, indeed, occasional discrepancies in minor points, though very few of the travellers have ventured to depart from the general au-

thority of their monastic guide. Or even if they sometimes venture to call in question the value of this whole mass of tradition, yet they nevertheless repeat in like manner the stories of the convents, or at least give nothing in their place.

Whoever has had occasion to look into these matters for himself, will not be slow to admit that the views here expressed, are in no degree overcharged. It follows from them—and this is the point to which I would particularly direct the reader's attention—that all ecclesiastical tradition respecting the ancient places in and around Jersulaem and throughout Palestine, is of no value, except so far as it is supported by circumstances, known to us from the scriptures or from other contemporary testimony. Thus one of the very earliest traditions on record, that which points out the place of our Lord's ascension on the summit of the Mount of Olives, and which certainly existed in the third century, long before the visit of Helena, is obviously false; because it stands in contradiction to the scripture account, which relates that Christ led out his disciples "as far as to Bethany" and there ascended from them into heaven. On the other hand, I would not venture to disturb the traditional location of Rachel's grave on the way towards Bethlehem; for although she is first mentioned by the *Itin. Hieros*, and by Jerome in the fourth century, yet the scriptural narrative necessarily limits the spot to that vicinity. On the same general principle, that important work the *Onomasticon*, the production of the successive labors of Eusebius and Jerome, which gives the names, and describes the situations of places in the Holy Land, can be regarded in an historical respect only as a record of the traditions current in their day.

The Lancaster Journal states that the wire of the magnetic telegraph, in that city, was struck by lightning during a late thunder storm. No damage was done, nor is it believed that in case of a recurrence of the accident any injury could be sustained, the wire being too small to sustain a sufficient quantity of fluid to produce any serious consequences. The sound produced by the stroke, in the interior of the telegraph office, was similar to the report of a pistol, which was accompanied by the emission of a few sparks.



RICE AND COFFEE-HULLER.

This new, ingenious, and useful machine we believe to be worthy of particular attention. We saw it for the first time a few days since at Mr. Allen's Depository in Water street, and heard a minute description of the several processes performed by it, and a comparison with the machines and operations heretofore in use, to accomplish the same ends. To understand all this, many of our readers will doubtless need a few words in explanation.

Rice and Coffee are by no means fit for use, or for sale, when they have been merely gathered. Each grain has two distinct coverings, which must be removed, like the chaff and bran of wheat; but both are to be taken off without breaking the grain, while bran is ground with flour and afterwards separated by bolting. Now, as the inner coats of coffee and rice are extremely thin and adhere closely, they are usually taken off by gentle pounding, with a slender pestle, thrust into a heap, but not to the bottom. This, however, causes a waste of several per cent., by breaking some of the kernels. The third and last process for rice is that of "*Pearling*:" that is, polishing the surface of each kernel, and giving the faint bluish tinge which is one of the properties looked for by purchasers.

We will now briefly describe the new

machine above represented, and its operations.

The Rice-huller and the Coffee-huller are made in the same form, and produce the same effects upon the two kinds of seeds, excepting the process of *Pearling*, which is not applicable to coffee. Each machine has two small mill-stones, only the lower of which revolves, while the hopper-hole is cut through the upper. They are set at such a distance apart, that a kernel of rice, or coffee (if a coffee huller,) may stand upright between them, yet not without touching them both. The motion of the wheel, (for some reason or other, not easily ascertained,) throws all the kernels up on end, and makes them keep that position, while passing along towards the outside of the stone, there to be dropped off. Both the skins or coverings of the rice or the coffee are effectually removed by the revolution of the stone; and it is declared that the machine would be of no use, were the grains to assume any other position. But rice requires gentle rubbing, to put on the polish, that is, to "*pearl*" every kernel. For this, the rice mill has a rubber so fixed near the circumference of the lower stone, that the kernels fall between them, and are gently rubbed over and over, and then dropped into the receiver below.

According to the information we have received, great saving is effected by this machine, whether applied to rice or to coffee, and by means which will be partly understood from what has been said. The original cost is not great, the machines are of different sizes, but comparatively small, light, portable, not likely to get out of order, nor difficult to be repaired. The cleaning of rice must necessarily be generally carried on a large scale; and in this city is a very large establishment for the purpose.

If any of our readers should wish for more particular information, we may be able to procure it: and we can aid them in obtaining any of the machines which they may wish to purchase. Some are so large as to be moved by steam; but a man can use a common one to great advantage.

VOLUNTEERS ON THE WAY.—There were 2600 troops at New Orleans from up the river, for embarkation on the 1st, and a cargo of muskets and other munitions from Pittsburgh.

MISCELLANEOUS.

In the Gazette of the 9th inst., we noticed the death of Mrs. Eleanor Campbell, which happened April 7, 1846. We had not then time to mention some incidents in the life of this lady, which, in our judgment, are worthy of being recorded, and which we now present to our readers.

Mrs. Campbell, on the day of her death, was 88 years and two months old. She was born in this town, and when she died was its oldest native citizen. She was the daughter of Mr. John Campbell. When the Indians attacked and destroyed Cherry Valley she was about twenty-four years old, and she and her father's family were taken prisoners, by the Indians and remained with them two nights and the greater part of three days.—The first night they encamped where the village now is. The next day they took up their line of march South, down the Chief Valley creek, through what was then an almost unbroken wilderness. The great number of women and children belonging to the party rendered their progress slow, and they did not, that day, travel more than eight or ten miles.

On the morning of the third day the Indians held a council to decide whether the women and children should be taken through the wilderness to Niagara, or be put to death or sent back to their homes.—What an awful moment was that to the poor prisoners! Life and death, or captivity, worse than death, were suspended on the issue of the deliberations of an assembly of savages! The humane councils of Brant prevailed, and Mrs. Campbell and the other women and children were sent back. When Capt. Brant informed them of this determination, he said there were scouting parties scouring the woods and that if on their return any of these parties should fall in with them, (the women and children,) they would be murdered.

To guard against such a catastrophe, Brant himself accompanied them until they were out of danger. Not long after this, on the first day of January, 1782, Mrs. Campbell was married to Captain Samuel Campbell, a highly respectable citizen of the town, who died several years ago, by whom she became the mother of ten children. The whole family descended to the grave several years before her. The latter part of her life she spent in the family of her son-in-law George Cylde, Esq., of this town, who did every thing in his power to render the evening of her life agreeable and happy. She was an affectionate wife, a kind and tender parent, a valuable member of society and a pious member of a Christian church.—*West. pap.*

Launch of the Louisiana.—This beautiful boat started on her ways yesterday afternoon at a few minutes past 2 o'clock, and glided into her destined element in most

gallant style. We have seldom seen a finer model, or one that gave better promise of speed, provided a reasonable amount of propelling power is applied. She sits gracefully upon the water—is exceedingly sharp fore and aft—and with her machinery and boilers on board, only draws about 5 feet water. Her length is 230 feet—breadth 27 feet, and depth of hold 12 1-2 feet.

The *Louisiana* was built for G. C. M. Reed, by Messrs. Bidwell & Banta, and altogether she does great credit to their skill and taste as marine architects. The joiner work is in the hands of John Grissam, who is preparing her upper works in his usual neat and substantial style. The finishing touch is to be applied by the Millers, who will make her cabin one of the most beautiful that float upon the Lakes. The finish and painting are to be after the most exquisite style of these artists. But more anon.

She is to be sailed by Capt. Levi Allen, who has so long and so favorably been known on our waters, that he needs no commendation from our pen. Early in July we shall expect to see the *Louisiana* ready for service in the *Louisiana* line.

New Boat.—Capt. G. Appleby is building a new boat at Algenac, on St. Clair river, and pushing her ahead with all possible despatch. Her frame is up, and the plating going on to her hull. Capt. A. does not design getting her out until fall. She is to be 225 feet long, 30 feet beam, and 13 feet hold. The engine high pressure, Cleveland manufacture—cylinder 38 inches with 10 feet stroke.

She will be among the first class boats, and arranged after the most modern style of comfort, convenience and elegance. Her name we will give at another time.

The *Niagara* returned yesterday morning, having fully settled the question that she can make her regular trips to Chicago without difficulty. This must be gratifying to all her friends, and affords another splendid moving palace for the accommodation of the travelling public.

The *Nile*, one of the best boats that move in our waters, so far as comfort, attention, and safety are concerned, leaves this evening for Chicago. She is one of those boats that people like to travel in.—*Buff. pap.*

Fitzgerald's Braiding Machine.—There has seldom been invented a machine, in which a greater effort of inventive genius was evinced, or more perfect success at-

tained than in this the apparently intelligent machine, by Mr. Elisha Fitzgerald, of this city.

The straw is prepared for this machine by simply being cut the requisite length, and steeped in water. It is then put in a proper box or holder, perhaps two hundred straws at once, and the machine requiring only a very slight power from water, steam, or hand, does the rest. Each straw is picked up separately when wanted, and carried to the right place; two strands are carried over and packed down at each revolution of the machine; and whenever the small, soft portion of the straw is braided in, the machine cuts it off and goes after another.—Should it not find one where it has a right to expect it, or should an unfit one be presented, it stops working. The attendant then puts the right sort of straw where one should be, and off she starts again. The putting in a straw, when it happens to break or miss, (which is rarely,) and the feeding with straw by the handful, are all the work required of the attendant, who may thus attend twelve or twenty machines, each of which braids faster and far better than could possibly be done by hand. The machine is of moderate size, requiring perhaps three feet square room, and is built at a cost of \$300 for each. The straw also, which has been hitherto wholly imported, even when the braiding was done here, will now be grown on our own soil, giving a farther diversity to agricultural production.

[*Scientific American.*]

ANOTHER COMET

HYDROGRAPHICAL OFFICE,

Washington, May 26, 1846.

SIR—The new comet which has been noticed in Boston papers as having been seen at Cambridge, Massachusetts, by Mr. Bond, on the 19th inst., was observed here last night with the equatorial, using 1,26s Grasmbridge, as the star of comparison, its place at 9h. 39m. 29s. 9 mean time, Washington, was App. AR. 6h. 55m., 19s. 5. App. Dec. N. 44° 32' 55". It gives as much light in the telescope as a star of the 3d or 4th magnitude; but its intensity is not greater than that of a star of the 9th. It has a sparkling centre of bright white light, surrounded by coma in all directions, and presenting in the field of the telescope a very beautiful appearance.

It may be seen with a common spy-glass, and its place by alignment last night was

about 10° north of Castor and Pollux, and nearly in a line from them to Polaris.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,
F. M. MAURY,
Lieut. U. S. N.

Hon. George Bancroft,
Secretary of the Navy.

THE WALDENSES.

After the wars of the French Revolution and the victories of Napoleon, Piedmont was annexed to France. Then, the Waldenses were placed under a free government; they enjoyed the same religious, civil, and political rights, as other citizens. But in 1815 they fell back under the yoke of the king of Sardinia, and then the Popish Clergy renewed against them the former tyranny. Unhappy spirit of popery, which seems unable to exist without persecuting furiously its adversaries!

The Waldenses are excluded from all public employments in the States of the king of Sardinia. They cannot be magistrates, officers of government, or teachers in colleges. They have certain limits fixed within which to perform their worship, and cannot go beyond these under severe penalties. They are required to observe the feasts of the Romish Church, and if they fail to do so, they are heavily fined for the benefit of popish establishments. It is expressly forbidden to them to make any proselyte. The priests on the contrary, have founded in these vallies, institutions for the purpose of gaining over all they can entice. They try to entrap children, so that their unhappy parents are kept in continual alarms. These priests give money to the poor to induce them to become papists; they promise, with the same view, promotion to soldiers, relief from punishment to prisoners, &c. They forbid the Waldenses to hold property beyond the narrow limits of their territory, and do not allow them to be lawyers, physicians or surgeons, except among those of their own faith!

And, observe that the Waldenses would be still worse treated if they were not protected by England and by Prussia. Long ago the Jesuits would have banished them from the country of their fathers, or shut them up in the dungeons of the Inquisition. But these fanatical monks are afraid of arousing the remonstrances of Protestant governments.—*Correspondence of the N. Y. Obs.*

Praiseworthy.—Captain Land, of the ship Rainbow, famous for its quick passage to and from Canton, offered to his crew on the last return voyage, as we learn from the Tribune, a premium of \$30 if they made the trip within a given time. The noble fellows worked the ship home far within the required time and thus divided the captain's gift—\$10 to the Mariners' Industrial Society, \$25 to the Floating Church of our city, and the remainder to the Bible Society.

POETRY.

CHRISTIAN UNION.

BY JAMES CHALLEN.

"The convention may become a great blessing. The very subject and object of it—Christian Union—is express and admirable."

Zion, now lift thy head on high,
And let thy heart be strong:
A stream of light breaks through the sky
Skirting thy cloud, along.

A dark and gloomy day hath been
The only heritage,
E'er since the giant "man of sin"
Commenced his iron age.

Thy enemies hath vexed thee sore,
In many a bloody fray,
And left thee weltering in thy gore,
To mourn thy hapless day:

A house divided, scattered, torn,
In endless schisms riven,
Of all thy strength and beauty shorn,
By storm and tempest driven.

But help shall come to thee again,
If from thy widow'd heart
In tears of sorrow, grief and pain,
Thou from thy sins depart.

And dost thou hear the battle cry
From every hill and dale,
That bids thee to the rescue fly?
Let not thy courage fail.

The watchword's "*Union!*" send it on—
On—let it speed as light;
By this the vic'try shall be won
The weakest now will fight.

Oh! who would sleep upon his shield
In such a time as this,
When from the must'ring battle field,
His trophy he might miss?

If from faint heart you stay away,
Or proud, ye will not come;
Others will win the glorious day,
And bring their honors home.

Protest. Unionist.

Solution of Enigma No. 8, page 288.—
"Intoxicating Liquors."—Tin, Six, Quota,
Uxorius; Sin; Cat; Gin; Locust.

The Catalpa Tree—Interesting Facts.

Gen. W. H. Harrison, (afterwards President of the United States,) declared in an address before the Agricultural Society of Ohio, in 1831, that the timber of this tree is more durable than either locust or mulberry

for fence or for gate posts. He mentions a tree which had fallen in the forest, across the small stream Desha, 5 miles from Vincennes, and which served as a foot-bridge in 1785, as only in part decayed in 1831. A bar-post set in a stockade fort in 1770, had been removed, perfectly sound.

Col. Philip Tabb, of Gloucester County, Virginia, one of the best farmers in that state, thinks it equal to any other timber for gate-posts.

Culture.—It is easily raised from seed as Indian Corn, grows 4 or 5 feet the first season, and 12 or 15 feet in three years: probably 6 feet annually in rich soil. If planted 3 or 4 feet apart they grow perfectly straight. Then transplant them. It is peculiarly adapted to the Western prairies, but probably would not prove hardy enough in the northern and Western States. So far as is known, the Catalpa tree is said to be free from the attacks of insects both in the wood and in the leaf. It is also adapted to more soils and situations than the Chestnut.

We saw the Sewing Machine, invented by Mr. Elias How Jr., of Cambridgeport, Massachusetts, at work, but we saw it so short a time, and the evolution was so rapid, that we can give no account whatever of its *modus operandi*. We brought away, however, a piece of its work, which those who are better able to judge than we are pronounce excellent. We must see it again. We think, however, that if this machine can continue to work as rapidly as we saw it work, it will certainly bring about a revolution in the trade.—*Boston Paper.*

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